**July 31, 2014**

**Africa RISING monthly meeting for July 2014**

**Venue-**Sof-Omor meeting room

**Time-** 3:00PM-11:00 PM

**Participants;** Peter Thorne, Kindu Mekonnen, Valentine Gandhi, Martha Cronin, Melkamu Deres, Tilahun Amede, Zelalem Lema, Elias Damtew, Annet Mulema, Wellington Jogo, Dereje Tirfessa, Frederic Baudron, Lulseged Desta

**Agendas**

1. Progress update
2. Clarification of financial responsibility
3. Data collection, management and sharing
4. Planning meeting – timing and agenda
5. Planning on capacity building schemes
6. Next plan
7. AOB
8. **Progress update**

**CiMMYT-** The raised-bed trial and participatory variety selection (PVS) research protocols are already on the ground and are going as planned and researchers from here have paid a visit recently. There is a plan to organize field days soon once the work on the field is well established

**CIP-** We are working on value chain study analysis and report in conjunction with the collaboration work we are doing with CIMMYT on crop related protocols

**ICRAF-** Apple tree training in Debre Birhan went well and we have recruited a PhD research fellow for field trial work. A preliminary study on farmer adoption of different technologies in Endamekoni was done by Martha

**ICRISAT-** We have planted wheat and the crop is growing well and we have recruited research officer for the fieldwork and we are planning for a home gardening experiment in the research sites

**IWMI-** we have a collaborative research on ground -water recharger in combination with the work we do on irrigated fodder. Multiple use of motorized water pumps is planned to expand to all the sites. Trying to work with Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) for other options in water harvesting technologies

**ILRI-** Short presentation by Kindu; Filed visit and an update meeting was done in Sinana and Endamekoni where encouraging AR project contributions have been witnessed. A Union potato seed production with support from AR- need is being documented with a digital story. A dominant cash crop in the area/ Insossila/ is being considered as a potential intervention for our intensification work in Endemekoni. Some planned activities after field visits;

* Agreement letters with farmers concerning compensation- research centers experiences
* Posting boards at trial level and some key places- site coordinators to check centrally and locally arrangements. Posting boards at trial level and some key places-

Issues pointed out by local partners during the update meeting:

* Pre and post-harvest loses
* Request to provide key recommendations for Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP2)
* 34 woredas soil fertility map- access from TARI, 7 types of fertilizers recommendations

-Nutrition meeting was organized in Addis Ababa with the objective of

* Briefly review R&D experiences on human nutrition and related issues
* Identify research gaps and opportunities
* Draft Nutrition research protocol together with Africa RISING local and CG core partners

-Field day was organized for farmers in irrigated fodder work in Lemo site and IP monitoring and evaluation data was collected on the event

Some raised ideas in-between updates

Tilahun- we need to capitalize on the knowledge that exists in the national research system for the AR research work

Peter- We reviewed the work done about Ethiopian highlands to the AR advisory board and we need to work more on finding ways to readily avail our outputs and better communicate them.

**IFPRI-** baseline data collection has been undertaken in all the sites, enumerators were well trained and at the moment data cleaning and editing work has commenced. Open access to the data was raised by participants and IFPRI agreed to avail it. It was emphasized there must be some sort of mechanism to access AR related data for all partners.

**CIAT-** planting was made for the agronomic field trial and big appreciation for the site coordinators for the huge help. For the value chain studies that were conducted, site specific reports are now complete and will be shared with the site teams, who will have authorship on them. This will be followed by summarized report that can be shared across the project as well. Engagement of site teams and platforms with pilot seed businesses (potato, faba bean and wheat and ware potato enterprises.

1. **Clarification of financial responsibility**

Operational costs have already been transferred to partners where international/national travel costs, per-diems and centralized research cost illegibility was presented for each partner institution.

1. **Data collection, management and sharing**

Peter- we have a whole lot of data coming in and it needs to be shared as we have open access policy. People should start to think about how to share data. The level of acknowledgement needed while using someone’s data was one of participants concern though. There was a discussion on the need to recruit data collectors at the site levels but emphasized to be cautious on hiring people who can give enough time for the work. It is better to use same data collectors for the different protocols we are implementing.

1. **Planning meeting – timing and agenda**

The will be an annual planning meeting possibly in November. Feedback on the timing is open to partners. We need to think about ways of scaling some AR activities and this will be a main discussion point for the planning meeting. We also need to make sure inviting a mix of people on the different days of the workshop. It is going to be part of a plan for step by step scaling. A separate meeting for high level delegates could be thought out in the future.

1. **Planning on capacity building schemes**

We need to be cautious while recruiting PhD and MSC students, the process needs to be transparent and properly advertised to benefit our partner institutions. This is particularly important for PhD students than M.Sc. students considering the short nature of the contact for MSc students. This is just to stop people from being parachuted to the project.

1. **Next plan**

* There will be a gender capacity building workshop for field based partners in third week of August
* Visits to project sites are being planned in August by CIAT for the agronomic trials

**Elias Damtew**

**18 August 2014**